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Pennsylvania

The 109th Regiment

Penna. Veteran Volunteers

AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE UNVEILING OF THEIR MONUMENT ON CULPS HILL

GETTYSBURG, PA., SEPTEMBER 11, 1889

BY

MOSES VEALE

Major 109th Penna. Veteran Volunteers

PHILADELPHIA

1890

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Veale, Moses, 1832-1917.

The 109th regiment Penna. veteran volunteers. An address delivered at the unveiling of their monument on Culp's hill, Gettysburg, Pa., September 11, 1889, by Moses Veale ... Philadelphia J. Beale, printer, 1890.

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UPON the first call of the President for three months' troops, Henry J. Stainrook answered the call and served as captain for the full term in the 22d Regiment, and immediately upon his return to Philadelphia offered his services for three years or during the war.

His services were accepted, he was commissioned as colonel, and authorized to raise the 109th Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry Volunteers — Curtin Light Guards — so called in honor of the patriotic and gallant War Governor of Pennsylvania.

December 20, 1861, the regiment was mustered into the United States service, and from then until May 9, 1862, was drilled and disciplined for the field, and on this date received marching orders, arriving in Washington May 10, 1862. From this date until May 24, 1862, continued drilling, and discipline was maintained; and when the officer detailed by the War Department to inspect the troops encamped around Washington, for the purpose of selecting those who were found to exhibit sufficient drill, discipline and soldierly bearing to be forwarded to the front, the 109th was immediately selected and ordered to march.

While in Washington the regiment was in the Military District of Washington, Department of the Rappahannock. On May 25, 1862, the regiment arrived at Harpers Ferry, Va., and was assigned to Cooper's Brigade, United States forces at Harpers Ferry.

May 27 an advance was made by Cooper's Brigade, consisting of 109th Penna. Vols., 111th Penna. Vols., 60th N. Y. Infantry, 78th N. Y. Infantry, 102d N. Y. Infantry, 3d Maryland Infantry, and

2d District of Columbia Infantry, as far as Bolivar Heights; and on the afternoon of May 29 Stonewall Jackson's Division appeared in front, advancing from Charlestown.

General Cooper opened artillery fire upon the advancing column, and the enemy replied, maintaining for the period of one hour or more an artillery duel, the infantry remaining simply in support; this was the baptism of fire of the 109th, the first sound of the enemy's guns, but a sound which the regiment was destined to hear without intermission until the close of the war.

On June 2, 1862, Cooper's Brigade was assigned to Sigel's Division, Department of Shenandoah. After marching through Charlestown, Winchester, Kernstown and Middletown, to Cedar Creek, it was assigned to First Brigade (Gen. Cooper), Second Division (Gen. Sigel), Second Corps (Gen. Banks), Army of Virginia (Gen. Pope).

July 5, 1862, the division marched to Front Royal, through Manassas Gap to Warrenton, Va., and from there to Little Washington, where the regiment encamped until August 1, 1862, when orders were received to march, and they crossed Hazel River, through Culpeper Court-house to Cedar or Slaughter Mountain, where on August 9, 1862, the battle of Cedar or Slaughter Mountain was fought.

In this battle the 109th was not to be a mere spectator or held in support of artillery, but was to engage in the real and fierce contest of war. The battle was opened by the artillery and continued for nearly an hour, when the infantry were ordered to advance; and although the first battle in which the 109th had engaged, the order was obeyed by the men and most of the officers with the spirit and determination of veterans. During the artillery firing Colonel Stainrook was severely wounded, but refused to leave the field and remained in command during the entire battle.

The advance was made, and the order given "fire at will"; the First Brigade, at this time commanded by Gen. Prince, was on the left of the line, the division being commanded by Gen. Augur, and the corps by Gen. Banks. The 109th was flanked on the right by the 3d Maryland. The advance was commenced late in the afternoon, the entire brigade in line, with steady march and deliberate firing; but soon, as the enemy was brought into closer contact and the sheet of flame from their line of musketry became continuous, the firing of our troops became more rapid, and the smoke and flame of the two lines became commingled. At this time the 109th was without adjutant or field officer, except the wounded colonel, but there was no wavering; the line was steady and the firing continuous. Soon darkness commenced to settle upon the field, and yet the 109th maintained its ground.

At this time the regiment received an enfilading fire from the right, and the colonel, supposing the fire was from the regiment of our own brigade on the right, which in the darkness and smoke had misdirected its fire, dispatched an officer with orders to stop this enfilading, when it was discovered that the entire corps on our right, including the regiments of our brigade, had fallen back, and that the 109th was flanked on the right by the enemy, and unsupported on the left. The colonel gave the order to fall back, and all obeyed the order except a few — more rash than wise — who attempted to advance with the colors; some of these paid the penalty of serving in Libby Prison.

This battle was to the regiment like fire to silver — it purged it of its dross, and purified the remainder by the blood of their dead and wounded comrades and their own tried courage and patriotism.

After Cedar or Slaughter Mountain, Banks' Corps fell back to Culpeper, and from there was, with the Army of Virginia, withdrawn behind the Rappahannock; and the 109th, with other

commands, for a week or ten days were engaged in guarding the fords of the river, repulsing all attempts of the enemy to cross. They were then withdrawn across Bull Run, forming the rear-guard of the army, destroying an immense amount of ammunition, burning wagon-trains and cars. The regiment crossed Bull Run September 1, 1862.

During the battle of Antietam the regiment was not actually engaged, but its commanding officer, Colonel Stainrook, was in command of the brigade, which — with the exception of the 109th — was actively and severely engaged. Colonel Stainrook displayed, as he did in every battle, great bravery and skill.

After the battle of Antietam the 109th crossed the Potomac into Maryland, passing through Frederick, Maryland, across South Mountain and Antietam, and from thence to Loudon Heights.

Under the reorganization of the Army of the Potomac in September, the regiment was assigned to Second Brigade, Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps, and remained in Second Brigade until November, 1862, when it was assigned to Third Brigade, Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps, and stationed on Bolivar Heights, and remained here until December 10, 1862.

Receiving orders to join the army at Fredericksburg, passing through Leesburg and Fairfax to Dumfries, Va., where after a slight skirmish they returned to Fairfax Station, on Orange and Alexandria Railroad, the 109th went into camp until January 17, 1863, when orders were received to join the army at Fredericksburg, making the march to Acquia Creek over roads which would ordinarily be considered almost impassable; the artillery and wagons sinking to the hubs, and horses and mules sometimes almost lost to view in their struggles to draw the wagons and artillery through the mud.

In April the regiment was assigned to Second Brigade, and on

April 27, 1863, all leaves of absence and furloughs were recalled, and orders were given to march. This line of march was commenced with haversacks and five days' rations, sixty rounds of ammunition, and knapsacks, overcoats and extra shoes; but the second day's march found overcoats and extra shoes lining the roads or piled in great heaps, hundreds of them being burned to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy. After a tiresome march the Twelfth Army Corps crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford, and the Rapidan at Germania Ford. On April 30, 1863, the 109th Regiment had a skirmish with the pickets of Anderson's Division, Army of Northern Virginia. The Rappahannock and Rapidan were crossed before the enemy was aware of the army's presence.

On May 1, 1863, the Second Brigade, Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps, consisted of 29th, 109th, 111th, 124th, and 125th Penna. Infantry Vols. This brigade was placed on the right of the plank road, and ordered to make trenches and erect breastworks, which they did with the aid of bayonets and tin plates. The 109th had but one field officer, the colonel. On the right of the 109th was the 111th Penna. Vols., and on the left the 124th and 125th Penna. Vols.

On the morning of May 1 the brigade advanced beyond its line about one and a quarter miles, and formed in line of battle with the Third Brigade on the left, and the left of the Third Brigade resting on the plank road. In this line of battle they advanced through a dense thicket and undergrowth for almost one mile, when the brigade passed into an open plain and received a brisk fire from a battery of the enemy posted in a wood. This attack was replied to by Knap's Battery. The brigade crossed over the open space to a road which passed to and around the right of the army line, upon ground considerably elevated above the line of temporary

breastworks. Gen. Kane, commanding the brigade, desired making a stand, deeming the position an important one, commanding the right of the line, and consequently communicated his views to Gen. Geary, but orders were received by him to cover with his command the withdrawal of the division. So well convinced was Gen. Kane of the importance of this position, and so anxious was he to give the enemy battle, that three distinct orders were received before he returned. The enemy, seeing our troops falling back, poured into them rapid volleys of infantry and artillery shot, but Kane's Brigade covered the withdrawal in a most masterly manner, and — in the words of Gen. Geary's report — "prevented the least confusion in the ranks in a movement always requiring great tact and delicacy, united with firmness of will and purpose." Our line having been regained, a line of skirmishers was sent out under command of Colonel Stainrook, of the 109th, supported by the Second Brigade, with orders to ascertain the exact whereabouts of the enemy and check their advance. This brave and skillful soldier most admirably handled this line, and advanced until superior numbers drove him in, but not until he inflicted upon them severe loss.

During the night the earthworks were strengthened, and — owing to the scarcity of intrenching tools — sabre-bayonets, tin plates, pieces of boards, and in some cases the bare hands, were used to scrape up the dirt. On the morning of the 2d, indications of a movement of the enemy were visible, which continued during the day. About five p. m. the 109th with the Second Brigade was ordered to proceed forward on the right of the plank road, and after advancing about two hundred yards the enemy's fire was drawn and our advance was made through the woods under a severe and galling fire. When a distance of some five hundred yards was reached, the enemy was discovered drawn up in line of battle

in heavy force, but in a short time orders were received to fall back within the lines, which was done in good order.

About six p. m., May 2, Stonewall Jackson, taking advantage of the unguarded position of the right, passed along the road and, falling upon the Eleventh Corps, drove them in a demoralized condition from their position, the enemy being checked only by the Twelfth Corps standing firm. During the night heavy and continuous firing was kept up along the front, and about eight o'clock a. m., May 3, the 109th, with Second Brigade, was in the trenches, exposed to a terribly raking and enfilading fire of the enemy's artillery. At the same time attacks were made upon front and flank by his infantry. The 109th, with Second Brigade, being in such an exposed position, received this fire with most damaging effect. Some of the solid shot from the artillery literally scooped the line of the 109th, but they maintained their position without wavering until ordered to march out by the left flank, which they did with the steady march of troops on parade, and this without a field officer. After marching some distance to the rear, the 109th was ordered to again take position in the front, and, countermarching, they took position with the Second Brigade in a line of defence in a woods to the north of the Chancellorsville House.

On May 4 orders were received to change position to the vicinity of the headquarters of the general commanding the corps, and to erect and strengthen breastworks. During this and the following day, this position was occupied. On the morning of May 6 the 109th crossed the Rappahannock at United States Ford, and the battle of Chancellorsville passed into history. This was one of the most brilliantly conceived campaigns of the war, and executed to a certain point with consummate skill, and yet a most impotent conclusion. During this fight, while Col. Stainrook, commanding the 109th, was speaking words of encouragement to his men and

exposing himself to great danger, a ball from the enemy entered his breast and with a few words he fell dead. A braver soldier never lived; a truer patriot never breathed. Had he lived until experience developed his natural ability, there would have been few if any more skilled officers in the army. Gen. Geary in an official report says, "I notice the death of Col. Stainrook, of the 109th, who gallantly fell while encouraging his men. A brave and accomplished officer, his loss is one over which I cannot but express the convictions of my most heartfelt regret." Truth compels me to record an incident of this battle which occurred at the time of the colonel's death. The senior captain, with a number of the men, including the then color-sergeant, ran ignobly from the field, taking with them the colors of the regiment. They did not reappear upon the field until the fighting was over, when the captain was compelled through shame to resign, and the color-sergeant received condign punishment from his comrades, suffered disgrace, and had the colors taken from him. This does not disgrace the regiment nor the brave fellows who were not participants in it; but it only makes their deeds the brighter.

The 109th returned to Acquia Creek and there remained until General Lee commenced his offensive-defensive campaign by invading Pennsylvania.

On June 13, 1863, commenced the pursuit of the army under Gen. Lee, and on June 30 the advance of the Twelfth Army Corps encountered a portion of Lee's army near Littlestown, Pa., resulting in a skirmish. June 30 the 109th encamped at Littlestown, and on the morning of July 1 marched to the Two Taverns, and halted until about half-past two p. m. the same day, when Gen. Geary, commanding the division, received orders to march. The 109th was in the Second Brigade of Geary's Division, the brigade being in command of Colonel Cobham.

On arriving within two miles of Gettysburg on the Baltimore Turnpike, the 109th with the Second Brigade was halted and remained until the morning of July 2, 1863. Although the 109th was within supporting distance, it was not actively engaged in the battle of Gettysburg on July 1.

In the history of the United States the first, second and third days of July, 1863, will ever stand as pivotal days, and the battle of Gettysburg not only as a pivotal battle of the rebellion, but as having the most important bearing and influence upon humanity and the world's history. It is not excelled, if equalled, by any human event since the world's creation. Every event helping to make up the great historical event of the battle of Gettysburg is important, and its mention is justifiable.

Gen. Geary, after placing his division on the line of march from the Two Taverns on the Baltimore Turnpike, with two staff-officers rode rapidly ahead towards Gettysburg, and arrived at Cemetery Hill, where stood Gen. Hancock in command of the troops then on the field, being the First and Eleventh Army Corps. Gen. Geary dismounted and saluted Gen. Hancock. Gen. Hancock said, "General, where are your troops?" and Gen. Geary replied that two brigades of his division were then advancing on the Baltimore Turnpike. Gen. Hancock then said, "Do you see that knoll or hill?" pointing to Little Round Top, "that is the key to this position, and if we can gain position on it before the enemy, we can form a line and fight a battle, but if the enemy secures it first, we will be compelled to fall back about seven miles to Pipes' Creek. In the absence of Gen. Slocum, I will order you to take possession of that hill." Gen. Geary turned to one of his staff, an officer of the 109th, and gave orders to have the troops with one battery of artillery (Knap's) leave the turnpike, and double-quick diagonally across the fields and take the position. When Geary's troops arri-

ved, some of the enemy's cavalry were on the opposite side. The 147th Penna. Vols. and 5th Ohio took position on Little Round Top, and the other regiments of the First and Third Brigades to their right, and to the left of the Eleventh Army Corps. About half-past five a large body of infantry was seen advancing on the Emmettsburg Road, and when nearly opposite the position of the 147th Penna. and 5th Ohio, went into bivouac. These troops were discovered to be Gen. Sickles' Third Army Corps. This speedy formation of the left of the line to Little Round Top frustrated the enemy's design, which would, if successful, have proven disastrous to the entire position.

This position was maintained until half-past seven a. m., on July 2, when Gen. Sickles, with Third Army Corps, relieved the First and Third Brigades of Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps. These brigades being relieved moved to the right of the First Army Corps, where they were joined by the 109th with Second Brigade. The Third Brigade was formed in line, left resting on the right of First Army Corps, at nearly a right angle with First Army Corps, on a steep rock mount which was a continuation of Cemetery Hill. The 109th was formed with its left on the right of the Third Brigade, at an angle of about forty-five degrees forward, conforming its line to the crest of the ridge, and the 111th Penna. on the right of the 109th Penna. Breastworks were immediately thrown up along the entire line. Skirmishers were thrown out to the creek, where the enemy's pickets were encountered.

During July 2 very little fighting was done on the left of the line, but about four p. m. the enemy opened a most fierce attack on the left and centre of the line. Between half-past six and seven p. m. the 109th with Second Brigade and First Brigade were ordered to the right across Rock Creek, as was supposed for the purpose of reinforcing the left and centre of the line which was so

fiercely attacked ; but after marching a long distance to the right, and away from a short and direct line to the point needing re-inforcement, the 109th with the First and Second Brigades were halted on the Baltimore Turnpike, with the left of the line resting on Rock Creek, and right on the turnpike.

Gen. Green with the Third Brigade had been ordered to attenuate his line, so as to cover the entire Twelfth Corps front ; the enemy, however, discovering the withdrawal of the First Division from the extreme right, and two brigades from the First Division left, made a most vigorous and furious attack upon Gen. Green ; his front and right were attacked before he had succeeded in occupying the Second Division entrenchments, and the enemy succeeded in occupying the entrenchments evacuated by the First Division.

The enemy seemed desperately determined to roll up Gen. Green's little brigade, and occupy the entire entrenchment of the Twelfth Army Corps, and thus secure the vantage-ground of the right of our army line. But Gen. Green and his little command were equal to the occasion, and with the most determined courage and gallantry, during an incessant attack of two and a half hours from vastly superior numbers, repelled four separate and furious charges, without losing a foot of ground.

The First and Eleventh Corps sent the gallant old General support. The enemy, meeting this determined resistance, discontinued their attack about ten p. m., July 2. The 109th with the Second and First Brigades had continued in position on the turnpike and Rock Creek from half-past seven until nine p. m., when the 109th with the Second Brigade was ordered to return to its original position. On entering the woods, and within two hundred yards of the breastworks, the 109th and Second Brigade was met by a sharp fire. Without replying the brigade was withdrawn to the turnpike in the rear of, and past Gen. Green's right, where it was again met

with a volley, showing conclusively that the enemy was occupying the intrenchments to the right of Green.

During Gen. Green's engagement with the enemy, to meet the attack on his flank, the 137th New York, which held the right of his brigade, changed front, forming a right angle to the rifle-pits, thus covering the right of the entire brigade.

It being injudicious to attack the enemy in the night in their new position, the 137th New York was relieved, and the Second Brigade was formed in double line at right angles with the Third Brigade, the 111th Penna. taking position with its left resting on the Third Brigade, and 109th Penna. on the 111th Penna. right.

Between the 109th Penna. and the 111th Penna. with the enemy in their front, was a shallow ravine. Before daylight on the morning of July 3, the First Brigade was placed in position on the right of the 109th Penna., and in extension of the line of 109th and 111th, the brigade's right extending almost to the turnpike. Gen. Geary, by a staff-officer of the 109th, reported the situation to Gen. Slocum, and on July 3, between one and two o'clock, a. m. had posted in position opposite the centre of the line of the Twelfth Army Corps, and slightly to the right of the Second Division's right, so as to command the ravine formed by Rock Creek, six twelve-pound pieces of "F" Battery, 4th United States Artillery, four twelve-pound pieces "K" Battery, 5th United States Artillery, and six guns of a Maryland Battery. Lockwood's Brigade, composed of the 1st Eastern Shore Maryland Regiment, and the 150th New York, was placed in a position to support the artillery. About half-past three a. m., July 3, the artillery opened from every gun a most furious fire, and continued without interruption between ten and fifteen minutes. At the same time the 109th Penna., with infantry of the Second and Third Brigades, made a most furious attack.

This tremendous assault of infantry and artillery at first seemed

to stagger the enemy, but they soon rallied and with three divisions, Johnson's, Rodes' and Early's, charged heavily on our front and right, yelling in their peculiar style. They were met at every point by the unswerving line and deadly fire of the 109th and the Second and Third Brigades, these troops not yielding an inch of ground; line after line of the enemy broke under the steady fire, but the pressing masses from behind rushed forward to take their places. After from twenty minutes to a half hour the artillery again opened fire with shell, and continued rapidly without ceasing for fifteen minutes, the infantry firing continuing. At about five a. m., the 147th Penna. on the right of the 109th Penna. charged and carried a stone wall occupied by the enemy. About eight a. m. the enemy redoubled their efforts, massing all their forces with the intention of carrying the position at all hazards, so that they could take the Baltimore Turnpike. Gen. Slocum, fearing the overwhelming force of the enemy might prove too much for the Second Division of the Twelfth Army Corps, secured reinforcements from the Sixth and First Army Corps. These reinforcements were not however called into active service, except a part of Shaler's Brigade.

About twenty-five minutes past ten, two brigades of Johnson's Division having formed in column by regiments, charged upon the right occupied by the 109th and Second Brigade. Gen. Geary in an official report says of the charge, "They met the determined men of Kane's little brigade, which though only six hundred and fifty strong, poured into them so continuous a fire that when within seventy paces, their columns wavered and soon broke to the rear. This was the last charge; as they fell back our troops rushed forward, driving the rebels in confusion over the intrenchments, and ending every attempt of the enemy to obtain possession of the right of the line and the Baltimore Turnpike. The enemy's loss was very severe, as nine hundred were buried by our troops in front of the line of the Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps."

At half-past ten a. m., July 3, the 109th was relieved and marched out, taking position near the Baltimore Turnpike, where they remained until half-past twelve p. m. They then returned to the position, on right of the Third Brigade, which they first occupied in the breastworks. Gen. Geary in an official report says of the Second Brigade, "It sustains the most excellent reputation as a high-toned brigade." They retained this position in the breastworks until the morning of July 4, when it was discovered that the enemy had withdrawn and was retreating.

On July 5, the entire army was in pursuit of Gen. Lee, and after crossing South Mountain on July 12, found him occupying a position on the heights of Marsh Run in front of Williamsport. The Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps, of which the 109th was a part, held the extreme left of our army line, which place was directly opposite the right of Gen. Lee's army facing us in front of Williamsport. The Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps, took position about twelve o'clock m. on July 12, and pickets were ordered to be thrown out; Captain Ralston of the 109th was in command of the division picket-line. One of Gen. Geary's staff-officers, an officer of the 109th, requested the privilege of passing outside of the picket line on recognizance, and with one orderly passed on the road to the left of the line leading to Williamsport. When a considerable distance inside of the enemy's vidette line, he called at a farm-house not far from the road, and inquired whether any Confederates had been there, and was answered, Yes, several officers had taken dinner there but a short time before, and that not far from the road a short distance further on, "a field was full of cannon." In this field the enemy had massed their artillery before crossing the river. Here was Gen. Lee with the swollen waters of the Potomac in his rear, and without means of crossing his artillery, pontoons having been swept away. And here defeat must cause the

surrender of his entire army. The staff-officer returned to division headquarters, and reported what he had heard to Gen. Geary, and Gen. Geary, accompanied by this staff-officer, reported to Gen. Slocum, commanding the Twelfth Army Corps. When Gen. Slocum had heard the staff-officer's statement he said "Geary, take your division, make an advance and feel the enemy." As Geary was about to leave Gen. Slocum's quarters to carry out this order, a staff-officer from Gen. Meade reported to Gen. Slocum, with Gen. Meade's compliments, that Gen. Meade would hold a council of war. Gen. Slocum then said to Gen. Geary, "Don't make any movement until I return from Gen. Meade." No advance was made until July 14, when Gen. Lee had constructed a pontoon bridge of lumber collected from canal boats and the ruins of wooden houses. The advance on July 14 was a failure, as the last of Gen. Lee's army had crossed when we arrived at the river.

After this the line of march was taken for Catlett's Station, Va., where the 109th Regiment arrived July 29, having marched from Gettysburg, since July 5, two hundred and four miles. The regiment remained at Catlett's Station until August 5, and from August 5 until September 18 it was on duty along the Rapidan, and from September 18 until September 28 it was on duty near Brandy Station, Va.

On September 28 the regiment was relieved from duty with the Army of the Potomac, and with the Twelfth Army Corps and Eleventh Army Corps, under Gen. Hooker, ordered west to the relief of the army at Chattanooga, and reached Murfreesboro, Tenn., October 6, and operated against Confederate cavalry from Nashville to Murfreesboro. During this time the Confederates held possession of the east bank of the Tennessee River from Chattanooga to below Kelly's Ferry, holding both Brown's Ferry and Kelly's Ferry, and preventing the furnishing of supplies to the army at

Chattanooga by the Tennessee River. To supply the army at Chattanooga was becoming difficult and almost impossible, and the opening of the Tennessee River became a necessity.

October 25 the regiment was ordered from Stevenson, Ala., to the front. They arrived at Bridgeport, Ala., October 27, crossing the Tennessee River, and struck the Memphis and Charleston R. R. near Lookout Mountain. At about five o'clock on the afternoon of October 28, they camped in Wauhatchie Valley. The Eleventh Army Corps encamped about three miles in advance, near Brown's Ferry. The troops encamped in Wauhatchie Valley, near Lookout Mountain, consisted of the 29th Penna. Vols., 109th Penna. Vols., 111th Penna. Vols., 78th N. Y. Vols., 137th N. Y. Vols., 149th N. Y. Vols., and four guns of Knap's Battery.

The 29th Penna. Vols. was posted on picket. About half-past eleven p. m. the pickets were partly driven and the troops were at once placed in line. The 111th Penna. Vols. on the right, the 109th Penna. Vols. on the left of the 111th, the 137th N. Y. on the left of the 109th Penna. Vols., and the 78th N. Y. on the left of the 137th N. Y., and the four guns of Knap's Battery were placed in the rear of the 111th and 109th on rising ground, so as to fire over the infantry and be supported.

The firing on the pickets at half-past eleven proved to be a feint, and the troops lay upon their arms. Between twelve p. m. and half-past twelve a. m. on October 28, the enemy charged, firing with tremendous fury, driving in the pickets, and then commenced one of the most furious and important battles of the war. The Army of the Cumberland was then on short rations, and supplies were impossible except by the Tennessee River. These fourteen hundred troops of the Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps, covered Kelly's Ferry. This must be maintained or the enemy would command the Tennessee River. From three to five thousand of Stone-

wall Jackson's old troops were thrown against us for the purpose of either capturing our little command, or annihilating it, and gaining possession of Kelly's Ferry. They poured into us three concentrated fires, from front and right and left flanks, but this little band of brave and tried Army of Potomac troops fought with steady and determined desperation, not giving way a single foot. The 109th fought without a field officer, under the command of a captain, but every man realized the importance of the fight and his own individual importance, where so few were fighting against so many.

From half-past twelve to half-past three o'clock this desperate fight continued. At one time it did appear as though the enemy would gain the rear of our right and capture the guns of our battery, but by a most timely movement one piece was thrown across the road on the right, which gave the enemy a raking fire and saved the flank. As the guns of the battery flashed the enemy would pour such a deadly fire into them, that both commissioned officers were killed, twenty-four of the men out of forty-eight were killed or wounded, and thirty-seven of the forty-eight horses were killed. At the end of three hours the enemy retired, leaving in our hands one hundred and fifty-three killed, including six commissioned officers, and fifty-two wounded, including three officers, making the enemy's loss in killed and wounded, according to the statistics of most battle-fields, about one thousand. In this fight the 109th added another page of honor to its history, of which every man engaged in this battle might feel justly proud. Gen. Geary in an official report says, "The enemy precipitately hurled their main body without skirmishers upon the left where the 137th N. Y., the 109th Penna., and the two left companies of the 111th Penna., met them with intense and well directed fire. And the actual fighting throughout the battle was sustained in conjunction with the artil-

lery by the 137th N. Y., the 109th Penna., the 111th Penna., and a portion of the 29th Penna. numbering eight hundred and fifty officers and men." Gen. Geary further says of the conduct of the 137th N. Y., the 109th Penna., and 111th Penna., in sustaining the brunt of the battle, "I cannot speak too highly, they acquitted themselves in a manner deserving all the commendation that a commander can bestow upon them, and which I take pleasure in mentioning officially."

Previous to the battle of Lookout Mountain the Second Division Twelfth Army Corps maintained a line extending from the confluence of Lookout Creek and the Tennessee River on the left to the top of Raccoon Mountain on the right. On the morning of November 24, 1863, the 109th Penna. and 78th N. Y. were placed on the right of these defences, while the balance of the division was withdrawn to charge Lookout Mountain. Although the 109th Penna. was not actively engaged in the fight, its position in reserve was exceedingly important, and the War Department authorizes the battles of Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Ringgold inscribed upon the colors of the 109th Penna. Veteran Volunteers. These battles therefore become a part and parcel of the history of the 109th.

About four o'clock on the morning of November 24, 1863, the Second Division Twelfth Army Corps, with some other troops, temporarily assigned under the command of Gen. Geary, crossed the railroad at Wauhatchie Junction and marched to a point about two and one-half miles up Lookout Creek, and here the entire command massed behind a hill which effectually secured it from view from the mountain. Throwing a bridge across the creek at this point the skirmishers and picket-line crossed, surprised and captured the enemy's picket-line without firing; forty-two pickets were captured.

Four pieces of light artillery, twelve-pounders, were placed on Bald Hill near the junction of the creek and river, and four pieces of

artillery on a hill opposite Lookout Point and behind Bald Hill. Two pieces of twenty-pound Parrotts were placed in the gap to the right and one section of howitzers commanded the approach to the lower bridge, and four pieces of Knap's Battery were posted on an eminence to the left of Kelly's Ferry Road from which it commanded the sides of Lookout.

About half-past eight o'clock the entire column commenced to cross the bridge, the Second Brigade in advance moved rapidly up the hill-slope by the right flank in a direct line from the crossing to the wall of the crest; the Third Brigade followed and joined the Second Brigade's left. Gen. Whittaker's Brigade crossed, followed by First Brigade, Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps. The line of battle as formed faced to the front was, Second Brigade with 111th and 29th Penna. on the right; Third Brigade with four regiments in the centre; First Brigade on the left in echelon with 66th Ohio and three companies of 5th Ohio in reserve. This constituted the front, covering the slopes from the mound of the crest to Lookout Creek. The 8th Kentucky, 35th Indiana, 99th and 40th Ohio respectively in order from the right of Whittaker's Brigade formed the second line in support, about three hundred and fifty yards to the rear of the front line, his right resting opposite Second Brigade's centre; about one hundred yards in the rear of the supporting line were the 96th Illinois and 51st Ohio, also of Whittaker's Brigade. This formation and distances were maintained until the farthest point gained on the mountain. A heavy line of skirmishers had been advanced and covered the entire front through the day's movements, and the flanks were kept so intact that the supporting line was perfectly secure, excepting from sharpshooters on the crest.

About nine o'clock the whole line moved forward, the right, held by the 29th Penna., kept in close contact with the ragged precipice of the summit; the left was instructed to govern its move-

ments by those of the front line on the right, the extreme left resting near the creek, the guide being the upper curvature of the mountain. The movement was quite rapid over the steep sides of the mountain which sloped at nearly an angle of forty-five degrees, breaking into numerous successive ravines from fifty to a hundred feet in depth, overcome by clambering almost perpendicular ascents and descents. When the right and centre had progressed about one mile and a quarter, the enemy's pickets were encountered and driven back upon their main advance body, a mile beyond a part of a series of fortifications, rugged nature and artificial, occupied by a brigade of the enemy. With fixed bayonets our troops charged at double-quick over all obstructions, regardless of the active work of the sharpshooters in the gorges and from the crest and the heavy musketry in front, and with wild enthusiasm made a sudden and vigorous assault. The Third Brigade and the 111th Penna., closing in with the enemy, and the 29th Penna. on the right, hurled themselves upon their flank with furious effect. The enemy offered a sturdy but brief resistance and soon yielded and threw down their arms. This was the first success in the charge upon Lookout Mountain. Many of the enemy were killed and wounded and the balance of the brigade were taken prisoners, with small arms, camp equipage, and four rebel flags, were captured by the 149th and 60th N. Y. regiments. The prisoners were sent to the rear to be disposed of by Gen. Whittaker's command.

The command without halting upon the site of the victory, pressed eagerly forward in original formation. Many were the obstructions now surmounted at every step, ravines, precipices, immense boulders, abatis, slashings and carefully constructed works. Keeping the right firm against the barrier of the mountain top, the right, having the shorter line, made more advance with less marching than the balance of the line.

Before reaching the next line of the enemy, the right of the line encountered the almost perpendicular pyramid of Lookout Point, the line being obliqued to the right so as to keep the rock for the right to rest upon. This brought the line to the most elevated accessible point of the mountain, short of the most elevated peak. At this point a rebel regiment was observed making a hasty descent through a pass from the westerly crest upon our flank. The 29th Penna. changed front to rear and succeeded in capturing the entire rebel regiment and thus counteracted this flank movement of the enemy. At this time our artillery opened upon the enemy's fortifications, the missiles flying over our troops into their lines. The artillery ceased and the Third Brigade and left of the Second Brigade charged the fortifications, who offered a stout resistance, but the Third Brigade pressed them hotly while the right of the Second poured in its flanking fire with such vigor that the enemy sullenly fell back from work to work until they were driven from each strong lodgement.

During this time the enemy opened with three pieces of light artillery from the crest and for twenty minutes made every effort to enfilade our lines, but their guns could not be sufficiently depressed to reach our ranks, and their missiles burst with trivial effect over the heads of the First Brigade, which unseen by the enemy was sweeping up the rough declivity just below the plateau. Being baffled with their artillery they hurled shell and hand grenades from the cliffs, but our lines moved so rapidly that they were mostly ineffective. Our lines still pressed on, pushing the enemy with such vigor that they could not recover, and their front wavered more and more each stand, until their falling back became a flight.

This was about twelve o'clock noon. The Second Brigade advanced about eight hundred yards around the point so as to command the enemy's flank and protect our own. At this point the brigade passed the mountain side at almost a perpendicular angle,

and when the brigade's right reached the desired point, their column was closed up, and with backs firm against the acclivity, presented a front toward Chattanooga Creek. At the same time the Third Brigade charged through the Peach Orchard taking the works encircling it and driving the enemy from a stone wall parallel with our line. The 137th and 60th N. Y., dashed through the yard of the "White House," where the enemy had two pieces of artillery in position, capturing them and their gunners, throwing the colors of the 137th N. Y. on the guns, as token of capture.

Our troops were fired with enthusiasm and on they went over the successive belts of ramparts inclosing the level area which the rebels reluctantly yielded. We had progressed about five hundred yards beyond the "White House" with our right, and in front of the mountain road, when the routed rebels rallied upon a large body of the enemy, three brigades being covered by the woods and rocks. Our men were imbued with irresistible ardor and vigorously engaged them. Whittaker's Brigade was halted at the stone wall of the "White House" and several of his regiments were formed about two hundred yards to the rear and left of it. A part of one of his regiments moved up to the support of the left of the line but was soon withdrawn. The enemy made several charges and were as often driven back to their original line. While the Third Brigade combatted the massed forces in front, the Second Brigade opened an oblique fire on the enemy's flank which enfiladed their lines and made their situation untenable. The impenetrable fog, which had for some time lingered above, now settled down upon and below the Third Brigade and it became impossible to direct fire upon the enemy unseen without endangering our own men; the fog prevailed during the balance of the day. The left of our line was still striving for the old road leading from the mountain into Chattanooga Valley, when at half-past twelve an order from Gen. Hooker commanded a halt along

the crest. We had gone already beyond the intended point. The ground occupied by our line was very abrupt. The Second Brigade flag floated from the highest point yet gained on the 24th. The officers and men manifested an eagerness to go forward. At about one o'clock the enemy made an assault in force upon our left, but our men stood firm and soon forced the enemy back to cover. From two o'clock p. m., of the 24th, and during the afternoon, night and early morning of the 25th, the Second Division was relieved at different times by Col. Grose's Brigade, Gen. Whittaker's Brigade and Gen. Carlin's Brigade. During the night of the 24th and morning of the 25th but little firing was done, but the men suffered considerably from cold. Before daylight of the 25th Gen. Geary gave orders for small reconnoitering parties to gain the summit with ladders and plant the colors on top had the enemy evacuated. The colors of the 8th Kentucky ascended on the eastern side of the ridge and the 29th Penna. on the western. They stood upon the summit about the same time, but the 8th Kentucky having the shorter line was the first to unfurl the flag from the gigantic-cliffs, but almost the same instant the 29th Penna. unfurled their flag and the "white star," the symbol of the division which carried Lookout Mountain. The enemy had evacuated, and from ten thousand throats burst forth the wildest shouts of patriotic enthusiasm. The victory was complete and without measure in its importance.

At shortly after ten o'clock on the morning of the 25th, pursuant to orders from Gen. Hooker, the Second Division, preceded by Osterhaus' and Cruft's Divisions, marched down the mountain toward Mission Ridge, upon the left of which the rebel troops withdrawn from Lookout and Chattanooga Valley had been placed in position in extension of the entire rebel line. Our troops descended into Chattanooga Valley taking the rebel route. The enemy disputed the advance of the column with artillery for a short

time, but was driven back and one of their guns captured. At about three o'clock in the afternoon our column turned to the left and followed the base of Mission Ridge.

Osterhaus moved down the eastern base and Cruft was getting a foothold to sweep along the crest line, when our division advanced along the western base with five batteries and parallel to the enemy's front and toward their right. The First and Second Brigades were pushed forward along the base and the Third Brigade in support of the artillery opened a battery on the enemy's flank and rear, compelling them to fall back; at the same time continuing a brisk artillery fire upon them. The division was then formed in column of brigades with the First Brigade in front and the Second Brigade in second line. They scaled the craggy sides of the ridge, moving obliquely to effect a junction with the right of Gen. Palmer's Fourteenth Corps. The rebel retreat at this time had fairly started, and our effort was made to cut them off. The descent of the ridge was a difficult work, but was accomplished in good order amid shouts and cheers. As our line of battle gained the summit Johnston's Division of the Fourteenth Corps attained the adjoining cliff on the left. At six p. m. our junction was complete and the left of the ridge was ours.

The balance of the army was successful and the entire range was taken from the enemy. Pursuant to orders we descended to the western base of the ridge and bivouacked for the night in the enemy's winter quarters. Several hundred prisoners were taken.

At ten o'clock on the morning of the 26th, under orders from Gen. Hooker, our division marched through Rossville Gap, following the line of retreat of the left of the enemy's army on the road to Graysville. The main body of the enemy retreated rapidly. Our division having passed Pea Vine Creek and Chickamauga Swamp at ten p. m. it was ascertained that the enemy had forces

on Pidgeon Hill. Osterhaus' advance commenced skirmishing; our First Brigade was hastily moved to the front, doubled on Osterhaus' column, and formed in line at right angles with the Ringgold Road. The Second Brigade was drawn up in line in an open field about three hundred yards to the rear. Skirmishers were immediately thrown to the front, scaled the hills and drove the rebel rear-guard from the ridge. Our division was within four miles of Ringgold. We bivouacked for the night at the foot of Pidgeon Hills.

At daylight on the 27th we marched from bivouac, in rear of Osterhaus' Division. At eight o'clock we marched rapidly through the town of Ringgold under a musketry fire from the ridge beyond. A short distance beyond, the Western and Atlantic Railroad ran through a gap in Taylor's Ridge, running in the same general direction as Mission Ridge; through this gap the whole of Bragg's retreating army had passed towards Dalton up to the time of our arrival, leaving one division in position on the ridge to dispute our passage. At half-past seven, Osterhaus, in advance, had formed his line at the foot of the hill, and assaulted the ridge under severe fire from the enemy. About eight o'clock our First Brigade passed to the left to scale the mountain and if possible gain the summit, attack the enemy in flank and charge with vigor along the ridge. The brigade was formed about three-quarters of a mile from the gap parallel with the railroad in two lines in echelon; the 66th Ohio and 28th Penna. in front, and the 7th Ohio and 147th Penna. one hundred yards in rear. The movements were made with rapidity, passing across a large open field to the foot of the ridge, under a severe fire from the summit. The two lines were here deployed into a single line of battle, throwing the 7th Ohio and 147th Penna. on the left. About five hundred feet above was the enemy pouring down a rapid deadly fire. The brigade steadily descended the

steep sides of the hill. Our fire was withdrawn until about half way up, when the whole line opened upon the enemy on the summit and pressed on.

The 7th Ohio on the right of the regiment on the extreme left was compelled to move through a ravine. The enemy massed at this point, and poured into this regiment a most deadly enfilading fire; it received and returned it unflinchingly and pressed on until within twenty-five yards of the summit, but the enemy, strongly reinforced, was overpoweringly superior, with advantage of position. The regiment, having lost its gallant colonel, and twelve out of its thirteen officers and nearly one-half its men, was retired. The 147th Penna. on the extreme left gained a position near the top, but both flanks of this regiment were endangered by the falling back of the 7th Ohio. The 28th Penna. and 66th Ohio, well protected on the right, held their ground about forty yards below the crest line, and engaged the enemy, but owing to the overpowering strength of the enemy they could not advance and were ordered to form on the line below. These brave troops had contended for two and one-half hours against overwhelming numbers and against the enemy in almost impregnable position.

As soon as the First Brigade was moved to the rear and left, the Second Brigade was brought up and massed behind a large stone depot on the confines of the town, toward the ridge. The Third Brigade was halted in reserve four hundred yards in the rear in the main street of Ringgold.

The Second Brigade had remained but a few minutes under shelter, when the enemy with artillery and musketry was pressing back some of Osterhaus' regiments on the right. The Second Brigade moved to his support on the double-quick, crossed the railroad under severe fire and took position in front on a mound to the left of the railroad and gap, facing the ridge. The advance

of the enemy's line was checked and hurled back towards the ridge.

The Third Brigade was brought up as soon as the Second was sent to the relief of the right, and was disposed in column of regiments, *en masse*, behind the stone depot.

The fight raged in front and at twenty minutes of eleven a. m. Osterhaus on the entire right was giving way. The Third Brigade was at once ordered to the right at double-quick. The troops in compact order swept over an open swampy space of nearly half a mile, while the enemy poured into them grape, canister and musketry. Arriving at the point of the right of the Second Brigade, the line was formed with 137th N. Y. on the left joining the Second Brigade on the right, and 149th N. Y. on the right of the brigade. They at once engaged the enemy and compelled them to recoil, and soon to seek protection upon the ridge in the sides of the gap. About fifteen minutes after retiring, the enemy advanced artillery to the edge of a belt of woods at the mouth of the gap with infantry support, and at the short range of one hundred yards commenced hurling shrapnel into our lines. A detachment of sharpshooters from the 149th N. Y. succeeded in driving the enemy with the artillery from their position, after the enemy had sustained a considerable loss. At about noon, one section of Knap's Penna. Battery and one section of Landgraeber's howitzers, were placed in position on the right of the Third Brigade, and in front of the gap. They soon silenced the enemy's guns and drove back their infantry. At this same time, one section of Knap's Battery opened from the line near our left upon the enemy which had massed in front of the First Brigade. At one o'clock, Osterhaus scaled the mountain, and our Third Brigade pushed their skirmishers into the gap, the 149th N. Y. capturing two flags. The enemy were driven back, and, after five hours contest, the

ridge was in our possession. On the morning of December 1st the Second Division marched from Ringgold to their old encampment in Lookout Valley. For the distinguished and most gallant service of the Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps, of which the 109th Penna. was a part at the Battle of Lookout Mountain, Gen. Grant, who was then in command of the army at Chattanooga, ordered a special review of this division, at which all of the distinguished officers serving at this place under Gen. Grant took part. This was a distinction granted to very few, if to any other divisions during the war.

Shortly after this the 109th marched from Wauhatchie Valley to Bridgeport, Alabama, and went into winter quarters. On January 20, 1864, the regiment re-enlisted for three years, and thus under the orders of the War Department became a Veteran Regiment, and left Bridgeport for Philadelphia on thirty days veteran furlough.

On April 4, 1864, the regiment was brigaded with 27th Penna. Vols., 73d Penna Vols., 119th N. Y. Vols., 134th N. Y. Vols., 154th N. Y. Vols., and 33d N. J. Vols., forming the Second Brigade, Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps. The regiment returned from veteran furlough and rejoined the division at Bridgeport, Alabama, on May 4, 1864, and on May 5 commenced Sherman's celebrated campaign against Atlanta, Georgia. On May 6 the regiment advanced with the division near Ringgold, Georgia, and on May 8 it was engaged at Rocky Faced Ridge, Dug Gap, Georgia. The Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, was ordered to make an attack at Dug Gap in order to divert the enemy from Buzzard's Roost to Dug Gap, to insure a successful assault by a large part of the army on Buzzard's Roost, the objective point being the turning of Dalton.

Rocky Faced Ridge extends for a long distance along a

mountain range through which is Snake Creek Gap and Dug Gap; the rocks are almost perpendicular and very high; from the valley or table land below to Dug Gap, the side of the mountain is quite steep and covered with timber, and the only road of approach to Dug Gap is a tortuous wagon road. Up this hill, and through this timber, was the Second Division ordered to charge, and assault Dug Gap, and most bravely was it done.

To carry this gap by an assault was practically impossible, nor was it intended to be carried, but the charge was made with the same heroic determination as though success was assured. The Second Division almost scaled these rocky faced ridges in the enthusiasm of the charge. The charge resulted in securing the object intended, so that the 109th Penna. with the Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, is entitled to the inscription of another victory on its banner. On May 12 the 109th passed through Snake Creek Gap in an advance on Resaca, and on May 14 and 15 the battle of Resaca was fought.

May 15 at three o'clock a. m., the 109th Penna. and Second Brigade formed on the left and rear of the Third Brigade, which held the position on the extreme left flank of the army covering the Dalton road. At seven a. m., a strong reconnoitering party of the Second Division was sent out and returned at eleven a. m. At this hour the division received orders to move to the right about three-quarters of a mile and form a column of attack.

This movement was made with the First Division of the Twentieth Corps. Owing to the nature of the ground, and the small compass within which the entire army was to operate in the first charge, the Second Division was formed in column of regiments. The Third Brigade was formed in advance, the Second Brigade following, and the First Brigade last. The position occupied by the enemy was one strongly intrenched on an irregular

line of hills with spurs running in every direction. On most of the elevations the enemy had batteries protected by earthworks. The hills, steep and rough, were thickly wooded.

Everything being in readiness the advance was ordered. The Third Brigade crossed a ravine and a hill, swept by the enemy's artillery and musketry fire, and drove the enemy from another hill, and, turning a little to the right, charged with ringing cheers for the capture of a battery which from a key position, was dealing death on every side. At the same time on the Third Brigade's left, a portion of the Third Division, Twentieth Corps, was advancing for the same deadly prize. The advance of both commands reached the battery nearly together.

The 111th Penna. of the Third Brigade led, and forced its way until the men had their hands almost on the guns and their colors on the earthworks, from which part of the gunners had been driven, and many killed. This earthwork was a sunken one at the crest of the hill opening towards its rear. Twenty yards in its rear was a line of strong breastworks, from which a deadly fire poured around and into the battery, rendering it impossible for men to live there. Col. Cobham, commanding the 111th Regiment, formed his little line, now augmented by the 109th and other portions of the brigade, within fifteen yards of the guns, where by the formation of the ground his men were sheltered from the terrible fire. Three regiments were formed in this line, and the balance of the Second Brigade posted in reserve. Three regiments of the Third Brigade advanced gallantly, driving the enemy from two hills from the left of Col. Cobham, and were ordered to report to Col. Cobham. Orders were given Col. Cobham to make every effort to secure and bring off the battery in his front. To this end Col. Cobham was reinforced from the First, Second and Third Brigades, until his command numbered

ten regiments. In the isolated position held by Col. Cobham, it was impossible to erect even a slight barricade without receiving a terrible fire from the enemy, fifty yards distant. The only route of communication with Col. Cobham was by way of ridges which were swept in most places by artillery and musketry fire from the enemy's main line. About five p. m. a division of the enemy's infantry debouched from the woods in front of the left of the Second Division, and charged in column, with the effort to gain possession of the ridges in our front. If successful it would have exposed Col. Cobham to attack from every side, and forced him to abandon his position; but the attack, though a spirited one, failed. About nine o'clock p. m. in the darkness Col. Cobham's men, with picks and shovels, dug through the works in front of the guns. This work had to be silently and carefully done. The men crept on hands and knees to the little dug fort, and after digging through the earthwork and removing the logs and stones, ropes were attached, and manned by brave men, while their brave comrades with pieces aimed at the crest of the hill, covered them in their work. At about midnight four guns were removed and in our possession, but the enemy, on the alert, discovered the movement, and springing over their breastworks furiously attacked Cobham's line. Cobham held his position, drove back the enemy, and sent four twelve-pound brass pieces to headquarters. The enemy was pursued from Resaca, and the Oostenaula River crossed May 16. An advance was made on Cassville May 18, and May 19 there was considerable skirmishing on the Cassville Road. From May 19 to May 23 manœuvres were carried on near Cassville. On May 24 an advance was made to Enhurley Creek on Alabama Road. A skirmish occurred at Owen's Mill, Pumpkin Vine Creek Bridge, May 25. The advance on this road was by the troops of the Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, without support, the

First Division Twentieth Army Corps being upon another road with the Fourteenth Army Corps, as it was supposed a large body of the enemy would be encountered by the Fourteenth Army Corps. Gen. Hooker and staff were riding at the head of the Second Division with Gen. Geary and staff, and upon the approach of the troops to Pumpkin Vine Creek Bridge, it was found that the enemy had fired the bridge. When Gen. Hooker and staff and Gen. Geary and staff attempted to put out the fire, the enemy's videttes, concealed in the woods on the bluffs upon the opposite side, fired at Hooker and Geary, but missed their aim. Gen. Hooker ordered Gen. Geary to throw across one regiment to dislodge them, and the 5th Ohio was thrown across. They formed a regimental front and charged, but it was received with such a volley that forty-eight men were killed or wounded and a staff-officer of the First Brigade killed. The whole division was then thrown across, and they found after considerable loss that the enemy was in too strong a force to be routed. Orders had been sent, as soon as the enemy was found in force in front, by the major-general commanding the corps, to march the First and Third Divisions to the point where the Second Division was engaged.

By five o'clock p. m. all three divisions were massed, with the Second Division in the centre, the First Division on the right, and the Third Division on the left. Each division was quickly formed for attack in column by brigades, the First Division leading, the Third Division next, and the Second Division in reserve. Between six and seven o'clock p. m. the Second Division was ordered to push forward. The division moved rapidly through a dense woods, swept by a very heavy artillery and musketry fire; the discharge of canister and shell from the enemy was rapid and terrific.

The 109th Penna. with portions of the Second and portions of

the First Brigade, engaged the enemy at short range driving them until after dark, when the Second Division was halted close under the enemy's batteries.

Breastworks were thrown up during the night, and when dawn came the position held by the Second Division was found to be a ridge of considerable natural strength, confronting another ridge at the distance of eighty yards on the left, and three hundred yards on the right, on which were the enemy's main line.

The operations were continued near New Hope Church, until June 1, and from June 1 to June 5, the 109th with the Second Division Twentieth Army Corps made a movement on the left of the army, and on June 7 took position near Ackworth, Ga. On June 10 an advance was made to Kenesaw Mountain, and on June 14, 15, and 16, a series of engagements took place at Pine Knob on Kenesaw Range. On June 15 Pine Knob was carried by a charge. On June 16 captured the enemy's skirmish-line. Skirmishing occurred on June 17 and 18 in front of Kenesaw and at Noses Creek. On June 22 there was an engagement at Kulps' House, near Marietta, on the Powder Spring Road.

On June 27 an assault was made on Kenesaw south of Little Kenesaw, and Gen. Hood, who had been placed in command of the Confederate army, was pursued toward the Chattahoochie River on July 3. Demonstrations took place along Nick-a-Jack Creek, at Turner's Ferry, July 4. The division skirmished with the enemy at Paices Ferry, July 5, on the Chattahoochie River, and on July 16 they crossed at Paices Ferry. On July 17 had a skirmish at Nancy's Creek, and on July 19, the 109th with the Second Division Twentieth Army Corps, covered the troops while constructing a bridge for the purpose of crossing Peach Tree Creek. Here quite a spirited action took place, our troops succeeded however in crossing, and, on July 20 was fought the Battle of Peach

Tree Creek. At ten a. m. the skirmishers moved forward, supported by the First Brigade and followed by the Second Brigade. They crossed two timbered ridges and after a sharp engagement, drove the enemy's skirmishers from a third ridge in the woods, and from a cornfield on the right of it. The position gained at twelve m. was at once occupied by First Brigade in line. A section of Bundy's Battery went into position on the left of the division, in the edge of the wood, and opened an enfilading fire upon the enemy. The Second Brigade was now placed in two lines, in support of the First Brigade, and all the artillery of the division posted on the First Brigade's line, the Third Brigade massed on the ridge behind the Second Brigade. In front, and to the right of the division, was a high, narrow, timbered hill about three hundred yards in advance of the main line, on which rested the right of the division skirmish-line.

The 33d N. J. of the Second Brigade was directed to occupy this hill, the skirmish-line advanced a short distance, when the enemy, heretofore concealed not more than seventy-five yards in front, advanced in heavy force and poured into the skirmish-line a deadly and continuing fire, forcing the skirmish-line and the 33d N. J. back to the main line, with considerable loss. Scarcely had they rejoined the main line, when the enemy in immense force rapidly and fiercely burst upon the right flank of the First and Second Brigades and pressed their flanks to their rear, at the same time charging upon the First Brigade, front and right.

The 60th N. Y. of the Third Brigade, and 119th N. Y., 73d Penna. and the 109th Penna. of the Second Brigade, stood by and supported the artillery fighting with the batteries on all sides holding the hill, while the balance of the division quickly changed front and formed in the midst of the battle connecting with the First Division, Twentieth Army Corps. This was done by

changing front to the right of the First Brigade and deploying the Second and Third Brigades in one line, connecting the Third Brigade's left with the First Brigade, and the Second Brigade's right with the First Division's left. During these changes the battle raged on every side with terrific fury. The 109th and the four other regiments throughout all this time were holding the hill with artillery. That hill was the key position of the entire battle; once gained by the enemy the day was lost. The enemy perceiving its importance surged in immense masses against it, while the division (excepting the 109th and the other four regiments mentioned), was changing front and rectifying its line. But the 109th and these four regiments and batteries stood firm as rocks, and mowed down column after column of that vast, struggling mass that charged them from three sides. Gen. Geary in an official report says, "I have never seen more heroic fighting." For three hours the fury of the battle could not be surpassed.

On July 22 our line advanced with frequent skirmishes, driving the enemy into the city of Atlanta, Ga., and establishing a siege of the city. On July 30 the 109th with the Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, advanced a picket-line and captured one hundred and twenty prisoners.

Heavy skirmishing was engaged in August 5 and 6. August 25 and 26 they took position at Chattahoochie Bridge, Paices Ferry, and engaged the enemy.

On September 2, the 109th with the Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, were the first troops to enter and occupy the city of Atlanta. From September 2 until November 15, they were on duty in the city of Atlanta, and on November 15 commenced the celebrated march of Sherman to the Sea. On the 15th an advance was made by Decatur, Stone Mountain, Social Circle and Madison, toward Milledgeville. On the 19th

we were at the railroad bridge Doonee River, and on the 22d they occupied Milledgeville. Sandersville was occupied on November 26. During this celebrated march to the sea one of the most important services rendered by the troops and one with the most disastrous results to the military strength of the enemy was the destruction of the military lines of railroads. On November 27, 28 and 29, the 109th with the Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, accomplished a most important work in the destruction of the Georgia Central Railroad, and from December 1 to December 8, the destruction of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. This work of destruction was unique and complete; the rails were twisted and tied into knots, making their further use impossible without re-rolling.

The war seemed to have developed this special mode of destroying the military strength of the enemy. On December 10 Montieth Swamp was reached, and on this same day commenced the siege of Savannah. The Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, with the 109th Penna., in the siege of Savannah occupied the extreme left of the army line, resting on the Savannah River. The siege continued from December 10 until December 20, when the city was occupied.

Remained on duty in the city of Savannah from December 21, 1864, until January 26, 1865, when the campaign of the Carolinas was commenced. The 109th and Second Division Twentieth Army Corps marched through Georgia and crossed the Savannah River at Sister's Ferry, February 7, into South Carolina, and advanced toward Barnwell. They crossed the North Edisto River on February 13, and the South Edisto at Jones' Bridge, February 14, and advanced to Charlotte, N. C., February 17. Saluda River, at Mount Zion Church, was crossed February 19, Broad River, at Freshley's Mills, was also crossed, and Alston

occupied February 20. We entered Winnsboro, S. C., February 21 and the same afternoon Gen. Geary, commanding the Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, received a communication from General Wade Hampton, commanding the Confederate cavalry. This communication was addressed to the commanding officer of U. S. troops occupying Winnsboro, requesting a safe-guard of said troops to be placed upon the property in Winnsboro, and to remain until Gen. Hampton should enter Winnsboro, when the safe-guard would be returned to their command in safety. The request was complied with and the promise of Gen. Hampton honorably kept. The communication was received by an officer of the 109th at the division headquarters, and a detail of the 109th constituted a part of the safe-guard which remained on duty.

The Catawba or Wateree River was crossed at Rocky Mountain February 23, and arrived at Hanging Rock February 26. They remained until February 28, when an advance was made, crossing Lynch's Creek at Horton's, March 1. On March 3 they skirmished with the enemy and occupied Chesterfield. The Great Peedee was crossed at Swedesboro, N. C., March 5. From here they marched upon Fayetteville, N. C., and occupied it from March 12 to 14, and on March 16 arrived at Averysboro. From here they marched to Bentonville and from Bentonville they marched, and occupied Goldsboro, N. C., from March 21 to April 10. On April 10 they advanced to and occupied Smithfield until April 11, and from April 11 to April 13 they marched to Raleigh.

Here the 109th was consolidated with the 111th Penna. On April 26 Gen. Johnston surrendered. The division marched to Washington, and on May 24 took part in the Grand Review. Remained in Washington on duty at the Old Capitol Prison till July 19, when the officers and men of the old and well-beloved regiment were mustered out and sent to their homes, after a continuous service of three years and seven months.

The total enrolment was one thousand and fifty-five, the killed and wounded was two hundred and thirty-nine, and those who died of disease and otherwise while in service, fifty-eight. The total loss during service, killed, dead and wounded, amounted to two hundred and ninety-seven. Nearly one-third of the entire number enrolled lay down their lives or were wounded during their term of service. From May, 1862, until the surrender of Gen. Lee, the 109th was constantly at the front, and an order during a fight which detailed them on duty away from the line of battle was received with disfavor and protest.

The dangers of battle are over. The trials and hardships of the march have passed and the monotony of camp life has become a memory; history alone is busy with the deeds of valor and actions of bravery of the 109th Penna.

This monument of granite which we this day dedicate is a page in the regiment's history. Monuments will add no lustre to the deeds of the dead, nor confer virtue upon their actions, but simply keep in remembrance those who in the time of our country's peril offered their lives to avert the danger and save for the benefit of posterity a government founded upon the consent of the governed, and dedicated to the principles of human freedom and personal liberty.

ERRATA.

- Page 6, — thirteenth line from top.
for "into Maryland" read "into Virginia."
- Page 12, — sixth line from bottom.
for "very little fighting was done on the left" read "very little fighting was done on the right."
- Page 13, ninth line from top.
after "and two brigades" add "of the Second Division."
- Page 14, — twelfth line from top.
for "with" read "and."
- Page 18, — ninth line from bottom.
omit "Between twelve p. m., and half-past twelve a. m."
and substitute "At a quarter of twelve p. m."
- Page 40, — fourth line from top.
for "dead" read "died."

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